



**Title:** Small clubs can have it ALL

**Category:** Arts & Culture

**Club Name:** Coonabarabran Golf Club

**Entrant:** Zoe Holcombe, Secretary

1. **Provide an outline of the program, project or cause that addresses each of the following aspects:**
  - a. **The program/project/cause objectives**
  - b. **The support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?**
  - c. **A timeline of activities/events**
  - d. **Any developments made since implementation (for example: if the support spans multiple years, how has the program grown? Will the club provide support again? Will the program be enhanced in the future?)**

Small Country Club with a BIG heart, Coonabarabran Golf Club sits in the North West NSW, 1.5hrs from Dubbo and 2hrs to Tamworth.

With a small membership base of 600 members it thrives itself on helping the community by the way of sponsoring of several sports groups around the town and making its club free for use for many local community organisations and family gatherings. There are at least 10 different groups that use the Club for their monthly/quarterly meetings, or fundraising events.

In 2018 it was nominated in the top 5 of NSW Country Golf Clubs. Although it didn't win, it was a massive achievement for such a small club.

The Club in recent times has had to start thinking outside the box a little, due to severe drought that impacted the area and now COVID 19.

In 2018 the Warrumbungle Shire acknowledged that we were pushing Australia Day events at the Club so well in 2017, that they moved the Coonabarabran Australia Day Awards Ceremony to the Club for 2018. It was a massive success, the town had never seen the numbers they did that year for the Awards. On the success of this move the Club was invited again in 2019 to hold the awards.

It all comes down to the Club having a Slip N Slide for the kids (and big kids) the slide went from a little 20m slide in 2017 to a massive 50m slide in 2018. Unfortunately in 2019 the water supply for the town run out, the river was dry and the Club could barely keep its greens alive so the Slip N Slide had to be cancelled. The Awards for 2019 went on though.

2020 arrives and we hold the Awards under Covid restrictions with a massive success again. We now had the water supply also, and the kids and families arrive 1 hr early to the Slip N slide to be ready.

The whole day is put on for free by the Club and its volunteer base. The Club wants the community to have something to do for this special day, and in turns gets the younger crowd to stay for the awards which happen around 6pm.

Why should bigger towns get the better things.....



In 2019 the secretary of the Club started to push with the Warrumbungle Shire Council to hold “Dive in Movies”. A concept where a movie is held and the public come along and watch the movie whilst in the pool. This had been seen by the Clubs secretary at “Wet N Wild”, and the thought was “WE CAN DO THIS TOO”!

The Club had recently become the owner of a 3m x 2m inflatable screen and projector set up. The secretary pushing with the help of other community groups got “Dive in Movies” going. In summer 2018/2019 the screen was hired out, for a minimal hire fee to the Shire and other groups.

This helped the community positively, with the ongoing drought that crippled the area that year and also a bushfire to the North of town. It was something for families to come to get away from the negatives of both drought and bushfires.

That summer the Golf Clubs screen went to Coonabarabran Pool, Dunedoo Pool and Coolah Pool. The time was volunteered by the Board of the Club, so all hire fees go straight back into the Club.

Come to summer 2019/2020 the hire fee is now a little more than the original \$250, the Screen has gone to Coonabarabran Park, Coonabarabran Pool, Coolah Pool, Dunedoo Pool, Mendooran Pool and Baradine Pool. Time, fuel and Fridays evenings are still being donated by the Board of the Club.

All events at the pools are free for everyone to attend and if not at a town pool they are held at the park or the Golf Club.

Working with other businesses – lets do this!...

A small town means working together will help each other in the long run. The secretary and local bakery come together and get “Pizza N Pints” going. We discovered that there was an opportunity for the local bakery and the club to do a Pizza Night at the Club. The bakery would take all the profits from the pizzas and the Club would host the event.

In conjunction a Youth Week Grant was (that was given in early 2019 to the Club – but due to covid was cancelled) used to put on free pizza, paddle pops and a picture (movie) for the youth in town.

We arrived at Pizza N Pints – 92 pizzas were made, and then delivered that night to the Club. And because of the massive support we received the next one will be March. Working together with other businesses in town will not only help them but it helps get the Clubs name out there that we can help each other.

**2. Provide a brief insight into why this program, project or cause was supported by the club.**

**In your answer, summarise:**

- a. **How the project, program or cause was first presented to the club. For example, did a member present it to the Board or Executive team, was it part of a ClubGRANTS submission, did it come from a local business or the community based on a need, was a survey conducted to identify areas of community need, etc.**
- b. **Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**



The moving of the Australia Day awards was a pretty easy motion when it was bought to us. We could see that it was a great opportunity for the Club and a great honour also to hold such an event like Australia Day Awards. The council and local MP even funded the 2 new flag poles so we could raise the flags.

We built on what we had done the previous year and made it even better. Applied for a grant through the NSW government, so when it was the first time held we showed we were the place to be! We bought gazebos for shade for the public to sit under, had 2 jumping castles, free music.

The Dive In Movies was hugely pushed by the Club secretary and to this day is still being pushed by her and her partner. Showing what Coona Golf Club has to offer is the main drive for this. And she wants other towns to know what the little club can offer. Generating extra income for the struggling club during drought and covid is driving the movie hire.

Being able to work with other small businesses in town, helps the Club and helps the small businesses. It shows the club is willing to go outside the box and think of a way to help each other.

### **3. Provide an outline of the positive impact the club's contribution had on the community.**

The holding of the Australia Day Awards at the Club has led to an increase in numbers that used to show up when they had it at the local park in town. By making it more family friendly, the awards are now something the community looks forward to every year.

Although a bit morbid the Club has become the place to hold wakes, due to its availability, family friendly atmosphere and staff.

The community sees the positive contribution this club makes throughout the whole Shire, by going to all the other towns in the area with the movie screen hire. By sponsoring the various sporting groups in town. Letting at least 10 community groups use the Clubs facilities for free to hold either monthly meetings or fundraising events.

Due to the presence this club shows around the Shire, when we were told to close due to Covid 19; the help from the community was huge.

They helped by buying most of our stock, so we could turn off the cool room and save money.

The members paid their fees BEFORE it was due, without asking.

Our staff once on Job Keeper spent their time painting! Yes they become painters to freshen up the inside of the club.

We had more FULL members join as golf become one of the only sports you could continue to play.

The board constantly reviewed rules, plans, talked to it members about what was happening.

Working with other businesses in town not only helps the club financially but it will help other businesses. In turn if we need sponsorship for golfing events we can get help. It all goes around in a big circle if you help others they will help you.

TELL US  
YOUR  
STORY



**4. Add any credits here (optional).**

The Board of Directors of the Coonabarabran Golf Club

Its members and guests

The communities across the Warrumbungle Shire

Warrumbungle Shire Council for letting us hold the Australia Day Awards

And of course the massive support of ALL the volunteers of the beautiful club. Without these people the Club wouldnt be where it is today! xox

**5. Supporting material:**

- *To request copies of the supporting documents, please email [events@clubsnsw.com.au](mailto:events@clubsnsw.com.au)*